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April 25, 2005

TO: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – THE
COMMUNITY YOUTH SPORTS AND ARTS FOUNDATION,
COMMUNITY YOUTH SPORTS AND ARTS GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of Community Youth Sports and Arts Group Home (Group Home or Agency) operated by The Community Youth Sports and Arts Foundation. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Community Youth Sports and Arts Group Home is a six-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 12-18 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Community Youth Sports and Arts Group Home was providing services for six Los Angeles County Probation children. Community Youth Sports and Arts Group Home is located in the Second District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review was to determine whether the Agency was providing the services outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covered basic child safety and licensing issues, and included an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statements, internal policies and procedures, child case records, facility inspections, and interviews with two children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with the residents were designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency was providing the services outlined in their Program Statement. However, the Agency needs to make repairs to its facility; provide documentation to show placement workers' participation in the development and update of the Needs and Services Plans; provide each resident with the opportunity to plan some activities; ensure that each resident is treated with respect and dignity; provide an adequate quantity of food and drinks for residents at all times; allow residents to attend weekly religious services of their choice; and inform residents of their right to refuse medication.

Attached is a detailed report of the review findings.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. The Agency's management is required to provide a corrective action plan to the Children's Group Home Ombudsman within 15 business days from the postmark date of this report. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our reviews.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:bg

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
Paul Higa, Chief Probation Officer
Scott Glenn, Executive Director, Community Youth Sports and Arts Foundation
Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
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**Community Youth Sports and Arts Group Home
4828 Crenshaw Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90043
Phone: (323) 294-8320
License No.: 191800533
Rate Classification Level: 9**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The Community Youth Sports and Arts Group Home is located in a residential and business community. The Group Home is adequately maintained and blends well with the other homes and businesses on the block. There were no observable safety hazards.

The residents' bedrooms are spacious, and personalized to each child's desire with posters, pictures, and knick-knacks. However, the interior of the Group Home needs improvement.

Carpet throughout the facility is dirty and has bleached spots. In bedroom number three, there is writing and/or scratch marks on the dresser drawers, desk, and walls. In the resident bathroom, the bathtub is dirty.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a VCR/DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

There is a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food is accessible and appropriately dated.

Recommendations

- 1. Community Youth Sports and Arts Foundation management:**
 - a. Replace carpet throughout the facility.**
 - b. Remove all writing and scratch marks from the furniture and walls in bedroom number three.**
 - c. Clean the bathtub in the residents' bathroom.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents meet the Agency's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Residents received a complete initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the Agency's program.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current, realistic, measurable, and time specific. However, there was no documentation to support the placement workers' participation in the development and update of the NSPs.

Quarterly reports for the residents are current, comprehensive, and appropriately focus on the goals of the NSPs.

The residents are provided with psychological testing, emotional and developmental counseling as required by the Program Statement. Case files reflect adequate documentation to show evidence of residents receiving regular individual and/or group therapy.

Recommendation

- 2. Community Youth Sports and Arts Foundation management provide documentation to show placement workers' participation in the development and update of the Needs and Services Plans.**

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Residents are attending school. One resident's record contains current report cards and/or progress reports. The other resident has not been placed in the Group Home long to have a current report card and/or progress report. Residents reported that they are provided with a sufficient amount of daily educational stimulation away from school and feel that the Group Home is supportive of their academic progress.

The Agency's program includes the development of residents' daily living skills. The residents are involved in the planning and preparation phase of meals. Hygiene care is discussed as needed and employment preparation encouraged.

Residents are offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

The residents are not employed.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The Agency provides its residents opportunities to participate in recreational activities. The residents expressed satisfaction with the recreational activities and stated that the recreation schedules are followed.

The Group Home utilizes local community organizations for recreational and program resources. One resident reported participating in planning some of the activities. The other resident reported that he does not participate in planning activities. The residents have free time and are able to participate in self-selected activities.

Transportation is provided to and from the activities.

Recommendation

- 3. Community Youth Sports and Arts Foundation provide each resident with opportunities to participate in planning some activities.**

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

According to the Agency's management, there are no residents receiving psychotropic medications. This information is appropriately documented.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

One resident expressed overall satisfaction with the Agency and its staff. The other resident reported that some staff are disrespectful and do not treat them with respect and dignity. This was discussed with the Group Home's Director and Assistant Director who stated that they were not aware of the problem; however, they agreed to address the issue with staff. Residents participate in an initial orientation and the Group Home's policies and procedures are posted. Residents reported that they feel safe in the Group Home and that there is no interference with their daily living functions.

Residents reported satisfaction with the taste of the food and with their ability to participate in menu development. However, residents reported that there are times when food and/or drinks run out and they do not get enough to eat and/or drink. They reported that there is sufficient staff supervision; however, they expressed dissatisfaction with the quality of their interactions with some staff. Residents feel there is at least one staff member they can easily talk to and trust.

Residents reported that they are assigned chores to complete on a daily basis that are reasonable and not too demanding. Residents are able to have visitors and to make and receive personal telephone calls. They are permitted to contact their placement workers, attorneys, and family members as needed. Residents reported that they are not always able to attend weekly religious services of their choice. Residents reported that if one person does not want to attend church then no one can attend. Residents feel that the Agency is respectful of their cultural lifestyles. The Agency allows the residents to celebrate holidays.

Residents reported that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Residents are not aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

4. Community Youth Sports and Arts Foundation management:

- a. Ensure that all residents are treated with respect and dignity.**
- b. Provide an adequate quantity of food and drinks for residents at all times.**
- c. Allow residents to attend weekly religious services of their choice.**
- d. Inform residents of their right to refuse medication.**

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The Agency provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. The Group Home supplies its residents with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance and the residents are given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to the residents is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Agency provides residents with the required minimum base allowance, which they are able to increase according to the Agency's behavioral system. Residents are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Agency provides residents with adequate personal care items and adequate storage.

Residents are provided with regular opportunities to maintain photo albums/life books.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.